

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01371 230704Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 AID-05  
SY-05 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
SCS-03 SCA-01 /075 W  
-----230722Z 050224 /10

O 230634Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1493  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1371

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN KARACHI

1. AS OF MID-DAY MARCH 23, KARACHI IS QUIETLY OBSERVING PAKISTAN DAY AS A HOLIDAY. THE PARTIAL CURFEW REMAINS IN EFFECT BUT WAS LIFTED FROM 0630 TO 0930 THIS MORNING AND WILL BE LIFTED AGAIN BETWEEN 1500 AND 1700 THIS AFTERNOON. THE PNA HAS SCHEDULED TWO PROCESSIONS FOR THIS AFTERNOON, OSTENSIBLY TO CELEBRATE PAKISTAN DAY.

2. THE TRADITIONAL ARMED FORCES PARADE WAS HELD THIS MORNING WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL THREE SERVICES, BUT THE NUMBER OF UNITS WAS SMALLER THAN USUAL AND THE PARADE WAS OVER IN A HALF HOUR. CROWDS ON THE STREETS TO WATCH THE PARADE WERE MUCH SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR.

3. THE PRESS IS REPORTING THAT SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL GOODS HAVE DEVELOPED HERE AND THERE AS A RESULT OF THE CURFEW AND THE HOARDING IT HAS STIMULATED. WE HAVE HEARD SIMILAR  
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SCATTERED REPORTS FROM INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS BUT OUR PRESENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT THERE IS NO SERIOUS ACTUAL OR PROSPECTIVE PINCH.

4. THE PNA DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 22 TOOK PLACE AND WERE MAINLY PEACEFUL. THEY CONSISTED OF BANNER AND PLACARD DISPLAYS RATHER THAN SPEECHES OR PROCESS-

IONS. A PNA RELEASE APPEARING IN THE PRESS CLAIMS THAT TEAR GAS WAS FIRED AT SOME OF THEIR RALLIES AND A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ARRESTED, BUT WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT SUBSTANTIATION OF THAT CLAIM.

5. SEVERAL PPP LEADERS AND A FEW TRADE GROUPS HAVE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN CRITICIZING THE PNA FOR DISRUPTING PUBLIC LIFE IN KARACHI WHERE THEY WON THE ELECTION AND HAVE NO REASON TO DO SO. THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AN APPEAL TO KARACHIITES, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SUCH RESENTMENT WILL COME TO OUTWEIGH THE STILL STRONG POPULAR SUPPORT FOR PNA AIMS.  
MOORE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PK  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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